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NO. XXVII — CHRISTIAN FATALISM.

**THE General's Letter.**

TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE SALVATION ARMY

Battered through the WORLD.

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MY DEAR COMRADES,

I have been thinking lately about the opinion which many Christian people seem to entertain that the existing religious condition of things is according to the will of God, and that it cannot be altered or improved without the Divine interference, because He does not care much to have things different. This is "Fatalism," and leaves the responsibility of the sin, and vice, and misery of mankind entirely with God. Wherever this spirit prevails, it must clip the wings of that energy so much needed in Salvation warfare. I fear lest any of you, my comrades, should catch this infection, and not only be thereby daunted in the discharge of your self-sacrificing duties, but excuse yourselves with the deceitful claim I have just mentioned.

Fatalism, as most of my comrades know, is one of the distinctive features of Mahomedanism, and, more or less, of every Asiatic religion. Mahomet taught that every event in human life was an arrangement of the Providence of God, that whatever happened might be taken therefore as an expression of the Divine will, was consequently unavoidable, and that to fight against it was neither more nor less than trying in the face of the Almighty.

Now, while most Christians would deny this Fatalism—the doctrine that teaches that whatever is to be, will be—in relation to the events of everyday life, they would justify their conduct towards a dying world by the notion, that the spiritual salvation and rebellion and inequalities of man cannot be altered; that they must wait God's time and interference before anything remarkable can be done to improve things.

Now this doctrine that God has His own way in this world is one that I totally deny, as you will not need me to tell you. It may be true of Hell, where God will no longer oppose the progress of evil; where sin, and the misery that ever follows in its train, will be permitted to have their own way. He will allow it to be so. He will not interfere. The Holy Ghost will no longer strive or oppose. Evil will reign supreme.

God will have His own way in Heaven, where every force—human, angelic, and divine—will be God-like and pure and true. Whatever happens will be—must be the will of God—good, and His pleasure, and therefore must be good.

But this cannot be true of earth, where, without controversy, active, voluntary agents fight against God—oppose His decree and willingly and directly work poverty, crime, vice, misery, death and perdition, and resolutely refuse to be turned away from the work they set themselves to do.

Nothing is more common than for God to be defeated. The devil conquers and reigns. In fact, a man must be absolutely blind who does not see that the devil is indeed said, of a truth the Prince of this world. Every hour, how he and his servants plunder the poor, subvert the righteous, deprave the little children, draw the righteous away from God, and to ten thousand fane pour their vice, burning, cruel, damnable lava of depravity and iniquity over the world!

attributes all this to God, and makes it out to be a species of impety to think otherwise, and regards it as showing wicked iniquity to be rashly fighting and resisting it with all possible might.

There is some difference, perhaps, between the Asiatic and Christian fatalism. By the former unavoidable evils in temporal things are accepted. Men and women resign themselves to famine, poverty, plague, and death, these things being considered as messages from God; whereas Christians will fight these evils, and move Heaven and earth in the attempt to avert them. But ask these same Christians to oppose spiritual evil and destruction in the same way, and they will feel and set quite differently. Thousands will stand up and fight a fever amongst their cattle, scouring the idea that it was of God, routing out every cow-pox and lot-bed of the disease, leading the milch, and stamping it out of existence. If asked to fight the deadly contagion of sin, to shut up the public-house, close the brothel, shield the little children, and use all means taught in the Bible, and suggested by the Holy Ghost to clear the neighbourhood of sin, the people would be shocked at the very idea.

If they don't say that whatever is, is right in the way of iniquity, they will say practically, "What is, must be. We must wait till God prepares the way, and open the door." And when you push them out to doing something desperate and to keep on doing it till they have given up, and are in the fight, they will look upon you as fighting against

When we see a soul saved let us recognize it as a victory on the part of God as far as that one soul goes; but if there is nobody saved, let us say that it is in saintious philosophy, that the Lord's will has been done and that things are all right.

If we cannot get money to run on the War, or men to fight and die for Jesus Christ, or people who will be true to the Corps when they have enrolled themselves in the ranks, it is a march under the colours, do not let us say that it is not the Lord's will that we should have the money or find the men, or keep the Soldiers a right and good. That is, if we fail in anything, it is not for us to say that our failure proves the Lord's will. It may just prove the contrary. God's will is always, and everywhere, that sin should be destroyed—let devils should be sent back to Hell, and that all men should be saved. If we fall through the unfaithfulness of those about us, let us admit it and say that our failure is of the devil, and go to work and get things altered and mended.

A good general in any human war would not say in an hour of defeat, "Providence is against me—this cowardice of my troops, or these unexpected manoeuvres of the enemy, or this breakdown in my supplies, whatever it is the Lord's will that the foe should be victorious, and take possession of those forts, energy, cover, arms and country with disgrace. It is of no use my trying again, I will resign my commission and go home to my grateful country!"

No! ten thousand times no! Any gen-

eral victory must in the long run be on his side; anyway, he will fight on while the power of fighting is left.

My comrades, if we conquer, it is through the power of the great Jehovah, and if we are defeated, it is in company with Him; moreover, defeat must, in the very nature of things, be only temporary. One! our strength, our everything is in keeping on fighting.

Yours in the war,  
WILLIAM BOOTH.

**NEWCASTLE.**

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" Although the devil rages, still we are marching along. Hallelujah! The past week has been one of blessing, and one of desperate conflict with the devil. Meetings very good all the week. On Sunday our meetings were grand; afterwards especially, some weeping in their faith. We were reinforced by some Burnsideville Blood and Fire Soldiers, who did us good service. We had a grand march—twenty-three Soldiers—the largest march I have seen in Newcastle. Some say here the Army is going down, yet we are, to pick up poor sinners out of the gutter.

Lieut. Deaver.

**OOREMORE.**

CANNOT BE FRIGHTENED OUT.

Hallo! they said the Army was going down! but what does this mean? 28 on the march, and they are all so happy.

**Cobourg.**

A STRAIGHT SHOT.

Praise God! we are alive and giving battle to the devil. What do you think? I don't know. Why, Cobourg is going up!

Two souls and three wanderers returned.

A great broad net man, half tipsy, said, "That he felt led by the Spirit of God to come into the barracks, and every one that was sent shut him right in the heart; he felt the meeting was expressly for him. He was brought up of wealthy and praying parents, but ran away from home (thence of New York) and was led away. He also had a praying wife, but owing to his drinking habits she could not stay with him. He has been separated from her several years. For 16 years he has been connected with Frank Robins' American Circus.

driving a band wagon, and other things connected with the devil's plaything; but praise God! he thanked the blessed Saviour that He led him into the despised Salvation Army barracks, for Jesus had shown him the light."

He has left the circus, and will go home to his wife, and trust God in the future. Glory, praise, and power to God forever.

Another one who had resisted the Spirit thought he could not get right, but as soon as he got on his narrow

**A War Spirit Wanted.**

That face in the picture is in for a fight. And why not? Reason enough to make any one fight!

What a spirit of fight is all over the world now-a-days. China, Egypt, Russia, France, India, England, and other nations, seem "spelling for a fight." From the King to the cottier, everybody is talking about war.

That woman after the eagle with her talons is laying talking about war. She is into it with a vengeance.

Now we want a terrible War Spirit in the Salvation Army, and boys our comrades may all get leaders talking will be merged in the real battle.

Look again at that woman on the mountain top. Study how the case fits you. Her war spirit is

Natural and Necessary.

It is in her very blood and bones to fight to rescue her child. And you, my comrades—if you have the blood of Jesus in your veins, will instinctively and unthinkingly fight to rescue poor souls. You will have to fight the devil who is hurrying away poor souls to the devouring pit. That woman will

Fight without Coaxing.

Oh what a pity that God's Soldiers have to be coaxed, bribed—yes, even threatened, to get them into the battle. I don't mean that we human officers do much threatening (and don't you think the Holy Spirit does a deal of it? Does He not often drive home to your hearts those warnings of God's Word, and then you go into sin lustily, in the open air, visiting, knee-drill, War Cry selling, etc. Of course the King pays you. You get a blessing. But would you not have a double blessing if you had rushed into the battle with a will, instead of being pressed into it?

Something at Stake.

Think of it. Her darling babe torn from her side as she worked in the fields. I suppose that as she rushed, scolded, scolded up those roads, every breath and every pulse beat said, "My child, my babe, my babe."

Oh! we need Soldiers, Officers who will get out—gasp out—Souls! Souls!!!

Perishing Souls must be saved! Shriek it out until sinners move, heaven move, every-going Christians move—and the whole Army moves faster than ever to pluck the prey from the snail.

The heroism is

Desperately Careless.

No matter if people call her crazy—no matter if they criticize her rude antics, and tell her how much better a Remington rifle would be. What care she if they cry out,

Heigh O! where are your shoes blind to repetition, is she? Aye, and far more, ready to die.

But what's the use of trying to explain it?

Oh! for an "Inspiration!"

to get hold of our dear comrades.

We have lately been thrilled by reading of the desperate fanaticism of the wounded Soldiers who, when unable to hold their weapons in their hands, seized their spears in their teeth and crawled along to destroy their half-dead enemies.

Vengeance against the Devil.

Such Soldiers turn the world upside down, and hurl the "petticoat world" back to his place.

At this point "bright devils" and "palms of victory" lay and eye, but what about your soul now?

Are you filled with that love for poor perishing souls which makes people desperate?



**A MOTHER'S LOVE.**

Providence, and attempting the impossible.

My comrades, most of the existing conditions in the social, moral, political, and religious state of things are wrong and of the devil. God says so. The carnal mind—which is without controversy, the mind of the majority—is at enmity with God. He is truth. The world crucified the Truth when He came in human form, and is ready and willing to crucify Him wherever He is represented. Let us acknowledge this, and let us cease to say in any place or form that the will of God is being done, except when men and women are being made right and good and holy; and let us say that this, where those who have been made right are not spending their whole strength in making other people right.

They have got a salvation which cannot be frightened out. Jesus is the leader. Hallelujah! Meetings: read all week. Sunday morning the power of God was felt, and

One backslider went his way back to Jesus. Hallelujah! Sunday afternoon grand march, and in the barracks the Lord came down mighty power, and

Two souls came to the loving Saviour, and He cleansed their hearts from sin and they went away rejoicing in a sin pardoning God.

Sunday night we saw farewell to the people of Coonara, and entrusted them to get ready for the great judgment day. Closed their in body but happy in the Lord. Hallelujah!

Lieut. West is, Capt. Hildes

bones and humbled himself, God spoke peace to his heart. Bless the Lord for ever. The horizon is clearing. Pray for us.

Capt. Wiggles and Wife, Lieut. Giddens.

**St. Anns.**

We are having some good meetings in this little place. The people are beginning to feel their need of salvation.

Three Precious Souls

came to the penitent form for salvation. Hallelujah!

Capt. Smith, Cadets Eerton and Symons.

Are you going to rescue the lost? or will you stand and look on while the enemy destroys them?







